

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED
Prelim. Amdt. dated September 24, 2003
Before a first Office action on the merits

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (New) - Equine hoof-ware, comprising in combination:

a sole having a base circumscribed by a peripheral wall defining a receiving area;

a mid-sole received within said receiving area and circumscribed by said peripheral wall;

a removable insert, and

an interlocking means integrally formed with said mid-sole and with said removable insert for receiving and interlocking said two together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 9 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 8 wherein said interlocking means is comprised of at least one complementary protrusion and indentation pair for mating and interlocking said removable insert and said mid-sole together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with different removable inserts for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 10 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 8 wherein said peripheral wall includes an upwardly and inwardly extending forward most end, an upwardly and outwardly extending rearward most end, and a pair of spaced apart upwardly extending sidewalls interposed between said forward most end and said rearward most end of said peripheral wall for defining said receiving area.

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Claim 11 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 10 further including a front upper connected to said sole and circumscribing said forward most end and said pair of sidewalls of said sole for defining an opening for receiving an equine hoof into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole.

Claim 12 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 11 wherein said front upper extends upwardly from said sole and mid-sole at an angle and terminates into an upper edge which angles downwardly from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole such that said front upper tapers from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole for substantially covering forward and side regions of the equine hoof received therein.

Claim 13 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 12 further including a contoured back upper comprised of a lower section operatively coupled to said rearward most end of said sole, an upwardly extending bulb section integrally formed with said lower section and shaped to receive an equine bulb of a heel, and a pair of extensions integrally formed with said upwardly extending bulb section for wrapping around said front upper.

Claim 14 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 13 further including means for coupling said pair of extensions to said front upper such that when said equine hoof is received into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole and when said pair of extensions are coupled to said front upper the equine hoof is essentially surrounded and secured within the Equine hoof-ware.

Claim 15 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 14 wherein said upwardly extending bulb section includes a vented back comprised of breathable backing holes for providing through air flow.

Claim 16 (New) - Equine hoof-ware, comprising in combination:

- a sole having a base circumscribed by a peripheral wall defining a receiving area;
- a mid-sole received within said receiving area and circumscribed by said peripheral wall, and
- a removable insert removably coupled to said mid-sole such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 17 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 16 wherein said peripheral wall includes an upwardly and inwardly extending forward most end, an upwardly and outwardly extending rearward most end, and a pair of spaced apart upwardly extending sidewalls interposed between said forward most end and said rearward most end of said peripheral wall for defining said receiving area.

Claim 18 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 17 further including a front upper connected to said sole and interiorly circumscribing said forward most end and said pair of sidewalls of said sole for defining an opening for receiving an equine hoof into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole.

Claim 19 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 18 wherein said front upper extends upwardly from said sole and mid-sole at an angle and terminates into an upper edge which angles downwardly from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole such that said front upper tapers from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole for substantially covering forward and side regions of the equine hoof received therein.

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Claim 20 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 19 further including a contoured back upper comprised of a lower section operatively coupled to said rearward most end of said sole, an upwardly extending bulb section integrally formed with said lower section and shaped to receive an equine bulb of a heel, and a pair of extensions integrally formed with said upwardly extending bulb section for wrapping around said front upper.

Claim 21 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 20 further including means for coupling said pair of extensions to said front upper such that when said equine hoof is received into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole and when said pair of extensions are coupled to said front upper the equine hoof is essentially surrounded and secured within the Equine hoof-ware.

Claim 22 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 21 wherein said upwardly extending bulb section includes a vented back comprised of breathable backing holes for providing through air flow.

Claim 23 (New) - Equine hoof-ware, comprising in combination:

a sole having a base circumscribed by a peripheral wall for defining a receiving area;

a mid-sole received within said receiving area and circumscribed by said peripheral wall;

a removable insert removably coupled to said mid-sole such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments;

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a front upper connected to an interior of said peripheral wall for defining an opening for receiving an equine hoof into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole for substantially covering a forward region and side regions of the equine hoof received therein;

a contoured back upper comprised of a lower section operatively coupled to a rearward most end of said sole, an upwardly extending bulb section integrally formed with said lower section and shaped to receive an equine bulb of a heel, and a pair of extensions integrally formed with said upwardly extending bulb section for wrapping around said front upper, and

means for coupling said pair of extensions to said front upper such that when said equine hoof is received into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole and when said pair of extensions are coupled to said front upper the equine hoof is essentially surrounded and secured within the Equine hoof-ware.

Claim 24 (New) - The equine hoof-ware of claim 23 wherein said upwardly extending bulb section includes a vented back comprised of breathable backing holes for providing through air flow.